

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1084

By Rose

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Coach Charles Halford for his illustrious thirty-year career as a teacher at Arlington Elementary School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Coach Charles Halford is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Coach Halford teaches physical education at Arlington Elementary School (AES), and since joining the faculty in 1990, he has taught approximately 30,000 students; and

WHEREAS, in his first ten years at AES, he taught seventh- and eighth-grade science and physical education classes for kindergarten through eighth grade and coached the boys' and girls' seventh- and eighth-grade basketball teams; and

WHEREAS, Coach Charles Halford issued a challenge to the boys' basketball team in 1994: if they won the championship, they could shave his head. The team went on to defeat Southwind Middle School on their home court to win the Shelby County District Championship, and Coach Halford kept his word, much to the delight of the team and local media; and

WHEREAS, AES became a kindergarten through fifth grade school in 2000, and after deliberating with family and friends, Coach Halford chose to stay at his school and continue building relationships with his students and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Coach Halford is a beloved teacher whose students have voted to pelt in the face for hours with pies, slime in the cafeteria, make into an ice cream sundae, and dunk in the dunk tank; and

WHEREAS, for twelve years, he coached the school's juggling team, which performed at the University of Memphis Tigers or Memphis Grizzlies basketball halftime shows on six occasions; the team also performed on local news stations and at University of Memphis Lady Tigers and Arlington High School games; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished professional, Coach Halford was the co-author of both the first and second editions of the Shelby County physical education curriculum used by teachers across the county; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and honors, Coach Halford is the recipient of the Parent Teacher Association Lifetime Achievement Award and was named to *Who's Who Among American Teachers*; he also had the privilege of accepting a bronze award from the Alliance for a Healthier School on behalf of AES at an awards ceremony in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he met former President Bill Clinton; and

WHEREAS, a native Memphian, Coach Charles Halford received his bachelor's degree from Memphis State in 1988; he comes from a family of teachers, including his mother, who taught for thirty-three years, and his aunt, who taught physical education for thirty-two years; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Coach Charles Halford is grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife of thirty years, Cindy Halford, and his daughters, Lauren and Ashley, and he is excited to become a grandfather this summer; and

WHEREAS, Coach Charles Halford loves to laugh, dance, entertain, and educate his students, and if he had to do it all over again, he wouldn't change a single thing; and

WHEREAS, Coach Halford truly epitomizes the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Coach Charles Halford for his illustrious thirty-

year career as a teacher at Arlington Elementary School, commend his exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.